

Amendment and Remarks  
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### Amendment to the Abstract

#### Abstract

A proximity warning system for a fireplace including a monitor module and an alarm module. The monitor module comprises a sensor and is configured to sense when an object, such as a person, enters in a defined zone proximate to the fireplace. The monitor module may use a variety of techniques to sense when an object enters the defined zone. For example, the monitor module may use the difference between a signal from the sensor capacitance and a signal from an adjustable reference element pre-adjusted to represent the absence of the object or pulse-infrared light to detect when an object enters in the defined zone. The alarm module is coupled to the monitor module to generate an alarm when the monitor module senses that the object has entered in the defined zone.